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United States Senate

October 28, 2015

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Carter:

I am writing to invite you to visit Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane in Indiana in the coming year.

NSWC Crane makes a unique and critical contribution to America's national defense through its work on nuclear security programs, missile defense technology, electronic warfare capabilities, and special operations support. Research and development programs underway at the lab are contributing vitally to national security priorities, and I believe you would find it valuable to see this work firsthand.

NSWC Crane was established in 1941 as a naval ammunition depot to produce, test, and store ordnance away from American coastlines. Today, this Indiana facility is the third largest naval installation in the world. The technological developments generated at NSWC Crane directly support the most critical components of U.S. national security in an efficient, cost-effective way.

As I have noted in our past correspondence, NSWC Crane's top initiative is its modernization work with the Navy Strategic Systems Program, supporting the nuclear triad in line with a key tenant of the 2015 National Security Strategy and the Fiscal Year 2016 budget. NSWC Crane is not only at the forefront of efforts to modernize Navy strategic systems, but is also working with the Air Force to foster collaboration and commonality across the services.

NSWC Crane is also an important contributor to U.S. missile defense. In addition to advising the Missile Defense Agency on a range of issues, NSWC Crane also develops key radar technologies for the Aegis Weapons Systems. NSWC Crane applies this expertise in radar technology to radar restoration programs for more than 40 surface combatant ships.

As cyber threats increase, efforts to protect assess across government, industry, and academia are becoming increasingly complex. NSWC Crane is connected to the Department of Defense Cyber Security Range using a closed-loop internet protocol based network. Additionally, NSWC Crane is the Department of Defense Executive Agent for Microwave Tubes and Printed Circuit Board Technology. The lab is a leader in the development of electronic counterfeit detection, forensics, and

mitigation. In line with the lab's support for strategic systems, NSWC is a center of expertise on high-reliability, radiation-hardened electronic components.

NSWC Crane stands out in its ability to deliver effective, efficient, life-saving solutions to complex problems faced by our warfighters. When you served as Deputy Secretary of Defense, NSWC Crane's technical expertise was successfully leveraged to develop PIPPER, an unclassified counter-IED solution for rlease to the Afghan Security Forces. NSWC Crane provided a viable solution in three weeks and had units ready to deliver in six months. The lab is also know as a Center of Excellence for Special Operations Weapons and Weaponry, delivering rapid, cost-effective solutions to the special operations community.

The Department of Defense (DoD) has lauded NSWC Crane for its model technology transfer strategies and its leadership in creating effective partnerships between the military services, academic institutions and industrial base. These partnerships allow NSWC Crane to leverage independent expertise, deepen its knowledge base and resources, and enhance national security while realizing cost savings for the U.S. taxpayer.

This facility and its elite personnel offer a unique capability to DoD, and I invite you to join me at the lab to discuss ongoing projects of interest to you and the Department.

Thank you for your service and leadership. I stand ready to facilitate your visit to NSWC Crane and look forward to welcoming you to Indiana.

Sincerely,

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator